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Letter dated 27 February 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to convey to you the interest of the Government of Pakistan in joining the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, in accordance with paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 61/109 of 14 December 2006.

Over the years, Pakistan has benefited from the peaceful use of radioactive sources in diverse fields, particularly medicine, agriculture and power generation. Pakistan's first research reactor and its maiden nuclear power plant became operational in 1965 and 1971, respectively. Pakistan has benefited from the radiation protection standards promoted by the International Atomic Energy Agency through international information exchange and assistance programmes.

At the same time, the regulatory framework governing the use and application of radioactive sources in Pakistan has evolved over time, culminating in the establishment of the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority in 2001. The Authority is mandated to control, regulate and supervise all matters related to nuclear safety and radiation protection in the country. As part of its programme to execute comprehensive policies and programmes for the protection of life, health and property against the effects of ionizing radiation, the Authority regularly participates in the activities of the Scientific Committee by providing occupation exposure data of radiation workers.

Given the significance attached by Pakistan to enhancing international cooperation in the field of radiation protection and the relevant experience of its organizations and personnel, Pakistan is keen to become a member of the Scientific Committee. Pakistan has professional staff with the necessary expertise and capacity to share knowledge and experience and to contribute to the work of the Committee.

I would like to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 29.

(*Signed*) Farukh **Amil**
Acting Permanent Representative

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